CLAIMS

1. A method of fabricating a sample substrate that reproduces the appearance of an actual product, said method comprising:

printing a pattern on said sample substrate that comprises a two-dimensional representation of the product; and

post-pressing said sample substrate to reproduce thereon the three-dimensional features of the product, said three-dimensional features including interior contours of the product.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said printing step is selected from the group consisting of: lithographically printing said pattern on said sample substrate, xerographically printing said pattern on said sample substrate, and screen printing said pattern on said sample substrate.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said post-pressing step is selected from the group consisting of: embossing said sample substrate, and debossing said sample substrate.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said post-pressing step includes pressing said sample substrate with a single pressing tool.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said post-pressing step is carried out by pressing said sample substrate between a complementary shaped pair of pressing tools.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said sample substrate is selected from the group consisting of: paper, cloth, cardboard, leather, wood, metal and plastic.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said pattern is selected from the group consisting of: a color pattern, a wood grain pattern, a marble pattern, and a contour pattern.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said three-dimensional features are selected from the group consisting of: a beveled edge, a groove, a column, a raised surface, and a lowered surface.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said printing step includes printing a two-dimensional pattern having actual dimensions of the product, and said post-pressing reproduces three-dimensional features having actual dimensions of the product.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said printing step includes printing a two-dimensional pattern having a reduced or enlarged size with respect to that of the product, and said post-pressing reproduces said three-dimensional features having reduced or enlarged dimensions with respect to those of the product.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said printing step includes printing a plurality of patterns at respective locations on said sample substrate, each of said plurality of patterns comprising a two-dimensional representation of a respective one of said plurality of products, and said post-pressing step includes reproducing said three-dimensional features of each of said plurality of products including interior contours of each product.

12. A sample substrate that reproduces the appearance of an actual product, said sample substrate being formed using a method comprising:

printing a pattern on said sample substrate that comprises a two-dimensional representation of the product; and

post-pressing said sample substrate to reproduce thereon the three-dimensional features of the product, said three-dimensional features including interior contours of the product.

13. The sample substrate of claim 12 wherein said printing step is selected from the group consisting of: lithographically printing said pattern on said sample substrate, xerographically printing said pattern on said sample substrate, and screen printing said pattern on said sample substrate.

14. The sample substrate of claim 12 wherein said post-pressing step is selected from the group consisting of:

embossing said sample substrate, and debossing said sample substrate.

15. The sample substrate of claim 12 wherein said post-pressing step includes pressing said sample substrate with a single pressing tool.

16. The sample substrate of claim 12 wherein said post-pressing step is carried out by pressing said sample substrate between a complementary shaped pair of pressing tools.

17. The sample substrate of claim 12 wherein said sample substrate is selected from the group consisting of: paper, cloth, cardboard, leather, wood, metal and plastic.

18. The sample substrate of claim 12 wherein said pattern is selected from the group consisting of: a color pattern, a wood grain pattern, a marble pattern, and a contour pattern.

19. The sample substrate of claim 12 wherein said three-dimensional features are selected from the group consisting of: a beveled edge, a groove, a column, a raised surface, and a lowered surface.

20. The sample substrate of claim 12 wherein said printing step includes printing a two-dimensional pattern having actual dimensions of the product, and said post-pressing reproduces three-dimensional features having actual dimensions of the product.

21. The sample substrate of claim 12 wherein said printing step includes printing a two-dimensional pattern having a reduced or enlarged size with respect to that of the product, and said post-pressing reproduces said three-dimensional features having reduced or enlarged dimensions with respect to those of the product.

22. The sample substrate of claim 12 wherein said printing step includes printing a plurality of patterns at respective locations on said substrate, each of said plurality of patterns comprising a two-dimensional representation of a respective one of said plurality of products, and said post-

pressing step includes reproducing said three-dimensional features of each of said plurality of products including interior contours of each product.

23. A sample substrate that reproduces the appearance of an actual product, said sample substrate comprising:

a pattern printed on said sample substrate and representing a pattern formed on the product; and

three-dimensional features formed in said sample substrate representing the three-dimensional features of the product, said three-dimensional features including interior contours of the product.

24. The sample substrate of claim 23 wherein said pattern is selected from the group consisting of: a lithographic print, a xerographic print, and a screen print.

25. The sample substrate of claim 23 wherein said three-dimensional features are selected from the group consisting of: embossed features, and debossed features.

26. The sample substrate of claim 23 wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of: paper, cloth, cardboard, leather, wood, metal and plastic.

27. The sample substrate of claim 23 wherein said pattern is selected from the group consisting of: a color pattern, a wood grain pattern, a marble pattern, and a contour pattern.

28. The sample substrate of claim 23 wherein said three-dimensional features are selected from the group consisting of: a beveled edge, a groove, a column, a raised surface, and a lowered surface.

29. The sample substrate of claim 23 wherein said pattern has actual dimensions of the product, and said three-dimensional features have actual dimensions of the product.

30. The sample substrate of claim 23 wherein said pattern has a reduced or enlarged size with respect to that of the product, and three-dimensional features have reduced or enlarged dimensions with respect to those of the product.

31. The sample substrate of claim 23 wherein said substrate includes a plurality of patterns at respective locations on said substrate, each of said plurality of patterns comprising a two-dimensional representation of a respective one of said plurality of products, and said three-dimensional features include said three-dimensional features of each of said plurality of products including interior contours of each product.